DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 051 768 HE 002 272

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TITLE The Christian College as a Source of Students for Selected Theological Seminaries.
INSTITUTION Biola Coll., La Mirada, Calif.
PUB DATE Dec 70
NOTE 19p.

EDRS PRICE EDRS Price MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS *Church Related Colleges, *College Graduates, *Enrollment Trends, *Theological Education

ABSTRACT

To determine the extent to which the Christian colleges serve as a source of students for selected theological seminaries in the United States, seminary catalogs with student rosters were obtained from 11 seminaries. Those included were: Gordon, Grace, Dallas, Fuller, Western Baptist, Talbot, Trinity, Eastern Baptist, Calvin, Princeton, and Bethel. The findings indicated that: (1) Christian college graduates tended to attend seminary within the same geographic region as their undergraduate college, though Princeton and Dallas drew their students from all areas of the country; (2) Christian colleges affiliated with seminaries tended to be the greatest source of Christian college graduates for that seminary; (3) Bible colleges produced a surprisingly high percentage of the total enrollment of the seminaries; (4) several seminaries received a substantial percentage (over 30 percent) of their students from the public sector; and (5) Christian colleges supplied 43 percent of the seminarians to these seminaries. (AF)

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THE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE AS A SOURCE OF STUDENTS FOR SELECTED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES

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December, 1970

HE002272

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to determine the extent to which the Christian college serves as a source of students for selected theological seminaries in the United States. The seminaries selected each serve all of the evangelical denominations, although some of the institutions are sponsored by specific denominations. The seminaries included in the study were:

1. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
   Wenham, Massachusetts (Interdenominational)

2. Grace Theological Seminary
   Winona Lake, Indiana (Brethren)

3. Dallas Theological Seminary
   Dallas, Texas (Interdenominational)

4. Fuller Theological Seminary
   Pasadena, California (Interdenominational)

5. Western Conservative Baptist Seminary
   Portland, Oregon (Conservative Baptist)

6. Talbot Theological Seminary
   La Mirada, California (Interdenominational)

7. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
   Deerfield, Illinois (Evangelical Free Church of America)

8. Eastern Baptist Seminary
   St. Davids, Pennsylvania (American Baptist)

9. Calvin Theological Seminary
   Grand Rapids, Michigan (Christian Reformed Church)

10. Princeton Seminary
    Princeton, New Jersey (Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.)

11. Bethel Seminary
    St. Paul, Minnesota (Baptist General Conference)

Christian colleges were operationally defined by, and limited to, the directory of approximately one hundred colleges listed in The Guide to Christian Colleges (1968-69) published by Campus Life magazine.

Introduction

The establishment of higher education in Colonial America was the result of the actions of the major religious denominations of the times. They desired a literate, college-trained clergy, and religiously orthodox, well-trained leaders in government and commerce as well. Since the Christian tradition was so important to the whole intellectual structure of the times, it was a natural occurrence for higher education to develop as a product and concern of the Christian church. Although the influence of the church was important, the colleges of this early period were not primarily oriented toward theological training. The first Seminary was founded in 1784 in New Jersey (Jencks and Riesman, 1968). All but one of the nine pre-revolutionary colleges were founded by religious denominations. They were: Harvard, 1636 (Puritans); William and Mary, 1693 (Episcopalians), Yale, 1701 (Puritans); Princeton, 1746 (Presbyterians); Columbia, 1754 (Episcopalians); University of Pennsylvania (then called, College of Philadelphia), 1755 (Interdenominational); Brown, 1764 (Baptist); Rutgers, 1766 (Dutch Reformed); and Dartmouth, 1769 (Puritans) (Brubacher and Rudy, 1968).

Before the end of the Century, the climate on the college campus underwent considerable change as the values of American society underwent change. It was out of fashion to be a Believer. A conservative reaction to the anti-religious posture brought about new life in Christian higher education between 1810 and 1850, but higher education no longer had a common undergirding (Brubacher and Rudy, 1968). One indication of the

changed relationship between higher education and Chrisianity was the reduced output of college graduates going into the ministry.

TABLE 1

Year	Percentage of college graduates entering the ministry
1700	50
1761	37
1801	22
1836	30
1861	20
1881	11
1900	6.5

(Data from Brubacher and Rudy, p. 10)

Institutions with a religious orientation have become fewer and fewer. By 1963, the Protestant colleges and universities were enrolling only about ten per cent of all students enrolled at four year institutions (Jencks and Riesman, 1968). Although few in number, these institutions have been hailed for producing leaders, and those entering professions of social service, particularly the ministry (Bowen, 1945).

> The church is largely dependent upon our Christian colleges for trained, loyal, and effective leadership. From fifty to ninety per cent of the trained religious workers, ministers and missionaries come from the church colleges. Without these colleges the denominations know that their chief source of supply would dry up (Booth, 1930).

Sperry (1954) welcomed the product of the Christian college at Harvard Divinity School and paid tribute to Christian higher education for the large number of prospective ministers they provided. Several large national studies in 1934, 1945, and again in 1962, when all American Association of Theological Schools were polled, verified that most seminarians previously attended church related colleges (May, 1934,; Hartshorne and Froyd, 1945; Bridston and Culver, 1965). The studies dealing with the

question of the undergraduate degree origins of seminarians have been of the broadest type. All undergraduate colleges having any ties with religion, whether it is an integral part of institutional philosophy or not, have been designated as church-related. The seminaries have represented all denominations and all shades of theological conviction (Patillo and MacKenzie, 1966). There have been no studies specifically concerned with Christian colleges holding historical conservative theological positions, and seminaries who prepare ministers within this tradition. This study attempted to examine the undergraduate degree origins of seminarians within this framework.

Method

Seminary catalogs with student rosters were obtained from eleven seminaries. These institutions were known to the researcher to fall within the limits of the study. The catalogs were examined to insure that their own statement of purpose verified the validity of their selection. The Guide to Christian Colleges, published by Campus Life, a publication of the evangelical organization "Youth for Christ International," was selected as a valid directory of Christian colleges. Only those institutions listed were viewed as Christan colleges, for the purpose of this study. A statement in the preface indicates, "you hold in your hands the most complete, up-to-date guide to evangelical schools and colleges available anywhere."

The rosters of students were examined in the following editions of seminary catalogs:

SEMINARY	ISSUE
Gordon	1970-71
Grace	1969-70
Dallas	1970
Fuller	1968-70
Western Baptist	1970-71
Talbot	1970-71
Trinity	1970-71
Eastern Baptist	1969-70
Calvin	1969-71
Princeton	1970-71
Bethel	1969-70

Results

1. It was determined that Christian college graduates tend to attend seminary within the same geographic region as their undergraduate college. However, Dallas and Princeton Seminaries tend to draw their students from all areas of the country (Table 3, Table 4).

2. Christian colleges affiliated with seminaries tend to be the greatest source of Christian college graduates for that seminary. Trinity College is an exception, Wheaton College provided more seminarians to Trinity Evangelical Divinity School than did the affiliated college (Table 4).

3. Bible colleges produced a surprisingly high percentage of the total enrollment of the seminaries in this study. Bridston and Culver (1965). reported a figure of only .6% seminarians with Bible college origins, as compared to the following noted in this study: Grace--25%, Dallas--19%, Trinity--16%, Western--11%, Talbot--11%, (Table 2, Table 5).

4. Several seminaries received more students from the public sector than might be suspected on the basis of the Bridston and Culver (1965) study. They found that 21% of the seminarians had come from public institutions (Table 5). This is in contrast to the larger representation noted at the following institutions: Fuller--39%, Dallas-37%, Western--34% (Table 2).

5. Christian colleges supply 43% of the seminarians to the selected seminaries of this study. Since Protestant colleges enroll only about ten per cent of the total college population, and evangelical institutions a lesser figure within this category, evangelical Christian colleges are clearly over-represented in producing students for selected seminaries.

6. Those Christian colleges determined to have the highest rates of production of seminarians were, in rank order: Gordon, Biola, Bethel (Minnesota), Bryan, and Cedarville (Table 6).

7. Colleges represented at over half of the selected eleven seminaries included: Wheaton--9, Houghton--8, Gordon--7, and Biola--6.

Discussion

Christian colleges produce a disproportionate number of seminarians. In so doing, they help perpetuate the values of the Christian faith and provide a source of service to society that is invaluable. If there were no other reason for the continued existence of the Christian college, this, in and of itself, would provide a rationale for its place within American higher education.

It is not clear why the percentage of seminarians with Bible college origins was so much greater in this study than in previous research. Perhaps, the large number found in the current study was an artifact of the particular sample of seminaries. Or perhaps, the increasing emphasis on advanced education in all segments of society has caused many, who earlier assumed a Bible college preparation for the ministry to be adequate, to re-evaluate this position, and from this, to attempt to upgrade their preparation by attending seminary. Since Bridston and Culver's (1965) study took place at the first part of the last decade, this seems a plausible explanation.

This study has not attempted to determine which Christian college produces the greatest proportion, or greatest absolute number of students who eventually attend seminary. Rather, the concern has been to examine certain operationally defined Christian colleges and their output of seminarians to eleven seminaries thought to be prominent in the evangelical wing of Christianity. Those colleges who demonstrated the highest index of production in this study may actually produce fewer total seminarians than institutions whose students have chosen to attend seminaries not selected as part of the sample for this study.

It is apparent however, that of those Christian colleges who share much the same theological position with the seminaries of the sample, there are great differences in the proportion of students who go on to these seminaries.

Colleges affiliated with the seminary sample provide an extensive source of supply in so far as Christian college imput is concerned. This imput ranges from 63% at Talbot from Biola, to Calvin's 97% (Table 8).

TABLE 2

Selected Seminaries and
Sources of Undergraduate Degrees of Students

All data in percentage of
total enrollment of selected seminaries

Student Source	Gordon	Grace	Dallas	Fuller	Western	Talbot	Trinity	Eastern	Calvin	Princeton	Bethel
Bible College	3	25	19	5	11	11	16	4	0	1	10
Private* Col/Univ	77	59	43	50	51	63	54	83	96	73	66
Christian College	45	49	27	26	32	53	39	49	86	13	53
Public Col/Univ	13	15	37	39	34	24	24	11	2	21	22
Foreign Col/Univ	7	1	1	6	4	2	6	2	2	5	2

*including Christian colleges

TABLE 3

Seminaries, and Colleges Producing
the Greatest Number of Students

Seminary	Enrollment*	College	State	No. of students
Gordon (Mass)	268	Gordon	Mass	52
		Wheaton	Ill	23
		Barrington	R.I.	16
		Houghton	N.Y.	14
		Eastern Baptist	Penn	3
Grace (Ind)	189	Grace	Ind	39
		Cedarville	Ohio	22
		Bob Jones	S.C.	10
		John Brown	Ark	4
		Houghton	N.Y.	3
Dallas (Tex)	446	Wheaton	Ill	17
		Cedarville	Ohio	13
		Biola	Calif	11
		Bryan	Tenn	9
		Westmont	Calif	8
		Bob Jones	S.C.	8
Fuller (Calif)	257	Westmont	Calif	12
		Wheaton	Ill	7
		Biola	Calif	6
		Pasadena	Calif	4
		Seattle Pacific	Wash	4
Western (Ore)	195	Biola	Calif	25
		Seattle Pacific	Wash	15
		George Fox	Ore	3
		Southwestern	Kans	3
		Warner Pacific	Ore	3

*enrolled in a degree program (all types), does not include special students

TABLE 4

Seminaries, and Colleges Producing
the Greatest Number of Students

Seminary	Enrollment*	College	State	No. of students
Talbot (Calif)	172	Biola	Calif	80
		Azusa Pacific	Calif	2
		Bob Jones	S.C.	2
		Seattle Pacific	Wash	2
Trinity (Ill)	391	Wheaton	Ill	29
		Trinity	Ill	27
		Houghton	N.Y.	17
		Taylor	Ind	13
		Westmont	Calif	9
Eastern (Penn)	179	Eastern Baptist	Penn	31
		Houghton	N.Y.	6
		Gordon	Mass	6
		Barrington	R.I.	6
Calvin (Mich)	272	Calvin	Mich	232
		Wheaton	Ill	1
		Eastern Baptist	Penn	1
Princeton (N.J.)	643	Houghton	N.Y.	11
		Whitworth	Wash	8
		Eastern Baptist	Penn	7
		Wheaton	Ill	6
Bethel (Minn)	240	Bethel	Minn	89
		Wheaton	Ill	8
		Seattle Pacific	Wash	6
		Tabor	Kans	5

*enrolled in a degree program (all types), does not include special students

TABLE 5

Types of Colleges and Universities
Previously Attended by 17,565 Seminarians
in American Association of Theological Schools
Fall - 1962

Institution	*Per cent of Seminarians receiving degrees from institution indicated
Public College/University	21
Private College/University	15
Denominational College/University	50
Bible College	1**
Foreign	6
Others	7

(Data from Bridston and Culver, p. 194)

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*percentages rounded to nearest whole

**actual figure -- .6

TABLE 6

Colleges with the Highest
Index* of Seminary Student Production**

College	Rank	Index
Gordon	1	9.9
Biola	2	9.4
Bethel (Minn)	3	9.3
Grace	4	8.5
Eastern Baptist	5	8.1
Calvin	6	7.3
Houghton	7	6.7
Wheaton	8	5.4
Bryan	9	5.1
Cedarville	10	4.6

*Based upon total number of students enrolled in seminaries in the study, divided by total enrollment of the College as indicated in Guide to Christian Colleges, multiplied by 100

**Based only on seminary student production for the following seminaries: Gordon, Grace, Dallas, Fuller, Western, Talbot, Trinity, Eastern Baptist, Bethel, Calvin, Princeton

TABLE 7

Seminary Enrollment of Graduates of Christian Colleges with Highest Production Index Rates* (in absolute numbers of students enrolled)

College	Rank	Gordon	Grace	Dallas	Fuller	Western	Talbot	Trinity	Eastern	Calvin	Princeton	Bethel
Gordon	1	52	1	5	--	--	--	1	6	--	3	1
Biola	2	--	2	11	6	25	80	3	--	--	--	--
Bethel (Minn)	3	--	--	--	--	1	1	2	--	--	--	89
Grace	4	1	39	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Eastern Baptist	5	3	--	1	--	--	--	--	31	1	7	--
Calvin	6	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	--	232	4	2
Houghton	7	14	3	5	--	--	1	17	6	--	11	2
Wheaton	8	23	2	17	7	1	--	29	--	1	6	8
Bryan	9	--	--	9	2	1	--	6	1	--	--	--
Cedarville	10	--	22	13	--	1	--	1	--	--	--	1

*Production Index Rate
See page 12 for computation procedure

TABLE 8

Seminaries Affiliated with Colleges,
Percentage Imput from Other Christian Colleges

	College/Seminary	Affiliated Imput	Other Christian College Imput
1.	Biola/Talbot	63%	37%
2.	Eastern Baptist/Eastern Baptist	72%	28%
3.	Gordon/Gordon-Conwell	75%	25%
4.	Grace/Grace	93%	7%
5.	Bethel/Bethel (Minn)	96%	4%
6.	Calvin/Calvin	97%	3%

(This data deals only with imput from Christian colleges, not with other sources)

CHRISTIAN LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES

Anderson College
Anderson, Indiana

Arkansas College
Batesville, Arkansas

Aurora College
Aurora, Illinois

Azusa Pacific College
Azusa, California

Barrington College
Barrington, Rhode Island

Belmont College
Nashville, Tennessee

Bethany Nazarene
Bethany, Oklahoma

Bethel College
Mishawaka, Indiana

Bethel College
North Newton, Kansas

Bethel College
St. Paul, Minnesota

Biola College
La Mirada, California

Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, Virginia

John Brown University
Siloam Springs, Arkansas

Bryan College
Dayton, Tennessee

California Baptist College
Riverside, California

California Lutheran
Thousand Oaks, California

Calvin College
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Carson-Newman College
Jefferson City, Tennessee

Cedarville College
Cedarville, Ohio

Central College
Pella, Iowa

Central College
McPherson, Kansas

Central Wesleyan
Central, South Carolina

Clearwater Christian College
Clearwater, Florida

Concordia Teachers College
Seward, Nebraska

Covenant College
Lookout Mountain, Tennessee

Earlham College
Richmond, Indiana

Eastern Baptist College
St. Davids, Pennsylvania

Eastern Mennonite
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Erskine College
Due West, South Carolina

Evangel College of the Assembly of Go
Springfield, Missouri

George Fox College
Newburg, Oregon

Geneva College
Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

Georgetown College
Georgetown, Kentucky

Gordon College
Wenham, Massachusetts

Goshen College
Goshen, Indiana

Grace College
Winona Lake, Indiana

Grand Canyon College
Phoenix, Arizona

Greenville College
Greenville, Illinois

Hardin-Simmons University
Abilene, Texas

Houghton College
Houghton, New York

Houston Baptist College
Houston, Texas

Huntington College
Huntington, Indiana

Bob Jones University
Greenville, South Carolina

Judson Baptist College
Portland, Oregon

Judson College
Elgin, Illinois

Kentucky Southern College
Louisville, Kentucky

The King's College
Briarcliff Manor, New York

Le Tourneau College
Longview, Texas

Livingstone College
Salisbury, North Carolina

Luther College
Decorah, Iowa

Dr. Martin Luther College
New Ulm, Minnesota

Malone College
Canton, Ohio

Manchester College
North Manchester, Indiana

Marion College
Marion, Indiana

Messiah College
Grantham, Pennsylvania

Miltonvale Wesleyan
Miltonvale, Kansas

Mississippi College
Clinton, Mississippi

North Park College
Chicago, Illinois

Northwest College
Orange City, Iowa

Oklahoma Baptist University
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Oklahoma City Southwestern College
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Olivet Nazarene
Kankakee, Illinois

Otterbein College
Westerville, Ohio

Owosso College
Owosso, Michigan

Pacific College
Fresno, California

Pacific Lutheran University
Tacoma, Washington

Pasadena College
Pasadena, California

Howard Payne College
Brownwood, Texas

William Penn College
Oskaloosa, Iowa

Pepperdine College
Los Angeles, California

Pfeiffer College
Misenheimer, North Carolina

Pikeville College
Pikeville, Kentucky

Oral Roberts University
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Roberts Wesleyan
North Chili, New York

Seattle Pacific
Seattle, Washington

Sioux Falls College
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Southeastern Christian College
Winchester, Kentucky

Southern California
Costa Mesa, California

Southwestern College
Winfield, Kansas

Spring Arbor College
Spring Arbor, Michigan

Sterling College
Sterling, Kansas

Tabor College
Hillsboro, Kansas

Taylor University
Upland, Indiana

Tennessee Temple
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Texas Lutheran College
Seguin, Texas

Trevecca Nazarene
Nashville, Tennessee

Trinity Christian College
Palos Heights, Illinois

Trinity College
Deerfield, Illinois

Union University
Jackson, Tennessee

University of Redlands
Redlands, California

Warner Pacific College
Portland, Oregon

Wayland Baptist College
Plainview, Texas

Westmont College
Santa Barbara, California

Wheaton College
Wheaton, Illinois

Whitworth College
Spokane, Washington

Wittenberg University
Springfield, Ohio

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